



CITY OF RIPON.

— REPORT —

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1897.

RIPON :

HILL, PRINTER AND STATIONER, 26, MARKET PLACE.

1898.

CITY OF RIPON.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1897.

GENTLEMEN,

As Medical Officer of Health for this City, I beg to submit my Twentieth Annual Report of the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Work in the City for the past year.

I have received and filled up the usual Returns from the Local Government Board and the West Riding County Council, copies of which are annexed hereto.

I have also shewn in those Returns the deaths in the Cottage Hospital and Workhouse during the year, and as far as possible the deaths occurring in the City of persons not belonging thereto.

A Summary of the Returns give the following particulars, namely :

Births.

During the year 1897 the number of Births registered was 187 (a decrease of 9), of which ninety-four were males and ninety-three females, giving a Birth-rate of 24·6 per 1000. Of these sixteen were illegitimate (including 5 in the Workhouse), as against 4 for the preceding year. The Birth-rate for the West Riding for 1896 varied from 65·6 to 14·5 per 1000.

Deaths.

The Deaths registered within the City numbered 117, 59 males and 58 females. Ten deaths occurred in the Workhouse (last year the number was 11), and 4 at the Cottage Hospital, there were no deaths at the Fever Hospital, leaving 103 for the remainder of the City. Nine deaths were registered of persons not belonging to the City.

The Death-rate for the whole of the City was 15·3 per 1000, and exclusive of Public Institutions, 13·5 per 1000.

The Death-rate for the whole of the City in 1896 was 17·4 per 1000.

The Death-rate in the West Riding (excluding the five County Boroughs of Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield, Leeds, and Sheffield) in 1896 ranged from 28·1 per 1000 to 10·7, the County Death-rate being 17·2, the Death-rate for the five County Boroughs was 18·5, and for England and Wales, 17·1.

Infant Mortality.

Of the total Deaths in 1897, 14 occurred in Infants under the age of one year, being at the rate of 74·8 per 1000 of the Birth-rate. The rate last year was 127 per 1000. In the West Riding, for 1896, the average was 150, in the five County Boroughs, 164, and in England and Wales, 148.

The Infant Mortality is perhaps the best feature of what I believe is the most satisfactory report I have had the pleasure to make during the time I have been your Medical Officer.

Always a most important question for the state because of its bearing on the question of increase in the population, and an interesting one to the Physician from the many and various causes which contribute to it, such as early marriages, weakly parents, hereditary tendencies, insanitary surroundings, unfavourable social conditions, poverty, vice, drunkenness, uncleanness, and probably most of all, improper feeding.

A low rate of Infant Mortality, depending as it does upon so many causes which are beyond the control of the Sanitary Authority, is not of the same significance as other portions of the Report, and though in consequence it is not, generally speaking, considered so definite an indication of the sanitary condition of a district, it reflects greatly to the credit, and speaks highly for the social, moral, and cleanly habits of the people.

Mortality at Groups of Ages.

The 117 Deaths in the City last year included 22 children under 5 years of age ; 3 deaths occurred between 5 and 15 ; 3 deaths occurred between 15 and 25 ; 33 occurred between 25 and 65 ; and 56 were of persons aged 65 and upwards.

Zymotic Diseases.

During the year there were only three deaths from Zymotic Diseases, and these were all Diarrhœa, and all three were children under one year of age. The Death-rate from Zymotic Diseases was 0·3 per 1000. Last year the number of deaths was 16, equal to 2 per 1000.

During 1896, in the West Riding the Death-rate from Zymotic Diseases was 2·03 ; in the five County Boroughs, 2·21 ; and in England and Wales, 2·18.

Very few towns in the West Riding or in England can claim a death-rate lower, or even so low as this from Zymotic Diseases, and when we consider the Zymotics are what are termed the Preventable diseases, this is, I think, a subject for congratulation, for there does not seem to have been any connection between these cases ; and as far as I could ascertain, there was *no* suspicion of their being “ Epidemic ” or Infectious Diarrhœa. In all probability these cases were due to special local causes, such as improper food, clothing, and want of cleanliness ; and were not really Zymotic at all. They were isolated cases arising independently of general sanitary or meteorological conditions, and as such do not come properly under the Category of Epidemic Disease, for which we, as a Sanitary Authority, could take steps to prevent, and I think we may fairly claim that of Zymotic Diseases we have had no cases, though we are obliged to enter these under that heading.

Other Diseases.

During the past year there have been 11 deaths from Phthisis, 18 from Bronchitis, 14 from Heart Disease, 2 from Injuries, and none from Influenza.

Death-rate.

The Death-rate, after correction for the whole City, is a most satisfactory one. It is the lowest we have had since the records have been kept, and entitles us to consider Ripon one of the healthiest towns in the West Riding.

Infectious Diseases.

During the year I have received fourteen notifications of Infectious Diseases, as follows :

Diphtheria ....	....	....	7
Typhoid Fever	....	....	2
Scarlet Fever	....	....	4
Erysipelas ....	....	....	1
			<hr/>
			14

Four cases were taken to the Fever Hospital.

In 1896 the number of notifications was 9.

Of the fourteen cases reported under the Compulsory Notification Act, I am glad to say none proved fatal. Seven of the cases were Diphtheria, these occurred simultaneously with a number of cases of so-called "sore throat" and "ulcerated throat," and were of a mild type, but the nature of the complaint could not be doubted for the specific Klebs-Löffler bacillus was demonstrated. In one case the cultivation was said to be "almost pure," and in another "the resulting growth consisted of Klebs-Löffler bacilli, associated with numerous staphylococci." In explanation I may say that these bacilli and staphylococci are micro-organisms (germs) which have been shewn by being grown in blood-serum, or some other suitable medium.

I must here acknowledge my thanks to the medical man whose cases they were, for placing his Laboratory Reports at my service. I took steps to have the cases enquired into ; they occurred in four houses, one house having one case, and the other three, two cases each. Instructions were given for cleanliness, isolation, and the use of disinfectants, and I am glad to say there were no further cases, and the threatened epidemic was averted.

This failure of the epidemic to spread, I believe, was largely due to the fact, that bacteriological examination proved at the onset the serious nature of the cases, and warranted the adoption of energetic measures, in what otherwise might have been thought trivial ailments ; an epidemic, characterised as epidemics frequently are, by a mildness of type at the onset, but followed by a more virulent form as it becomes established.

The association of sore throat with epidemics of Diphtheria have long been recognised, the history not unfrequently being first a number of cases of sore throat, then some doubtful Diphtheria, and lastly, a well-marked and virulent disease. At times of prevailing "sore throat," it is very desirable that

constant watch should be kept for the appearance of the only positive diagnostic sign of Diphtheria, the true pathogenic microbe (Klebs-Löffler bacillus), that energetic measures may at once be adopted should it appear. But this cannot well be undertaken by the busy, general practitioner, and seeing that it is for the benefit of the public, it would be well for Local Authorities to offer facilities through the Sanitary Committee, when advised by the Medical Officer, for having, in cases suspected of being infectious, an examination by an expert, of any secretions or discharges the Medical Attendant may recommend, the Authority making use of the information so gained for public health services.

Many epidemics might, in this way, be caught in their initial stage when there is the best chance and more probability of stamping them out.

With many of the other Zymotic Diseases, a Bacteriological Examination conducted on behalf of the Local Authority in the same way, with proper restrictions, might with equal certainty and advantage establish the identity of the earlier doubtful cases which generally prelude the more serious epidemics.

Of the Scarlet Fever cases I have spoken in my Quarterly Report, and I would quote from it as follows :—

“ The cases of Scarlet Fever were both due I believe to direct infection brought into the town from the neighbouring district where Scarlet Fever has been prevalent. In one case I attribute it to the fact that a child whose own school had been closed in consequence of the epidemic came to Ripon and attended one of the Elementary Schools. This is a very serious matter, and I should be glad if the Teachers at the Elementary Schools would bring all such cases before our notice. One of the cases was in a house where there were several other children, but it was at once removed to the Fever Hospital, and I am glad to say that through the prompt measures taken there was no further outbreak.”

Considering these facts and that Scarlet Fever and Measles have been rife in the districts round about us pretty well the whole year, it is fortunate we can shew such an immunity.

Private Improvements.

During the past year many Sanitary Improvements have been carried out within the City by property owners and others, of which the following is a brief summary.

In Crescent Parade, Messrs. H. & C. Boddy have put disconnecting traps and inspection chambers to drain at property occupied by Mrs. James, Mrs. Waters, Mr. Councillor Dixon, Mr. Eden, Mrs. Coupland, Rev. G. W. Garrod, Mr. Waldon, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Parkin, Rev. F. H. Taylor, and Mrs. Prest.

At the Canon's Residence the house drains have been re-laid, disconnecting trap and inspection chambers fixed.

At Property belonging to Messrs. Hepworth, Barrass and Haley, a new 8-inch sanitary pipe drain has been laid in place of old defective stone drain.

At the Fever Hospital, a new 6-inch sanitary drain has been laid, connecting same with the new sewer.

At the Marquess of Ripon's property, occupied by Messrs. Judson, Hague, Etherington, Hill and Baxter in the Market Place, new drains have been laid, disconnecting traps and inspection chambers fixed, and at one property, new water closet erected.

At Skellbank, a cottage belonging to Mrs. Trees has been condemned as a dwelling-house, and is now occupied as a workshop.

At Stonebridgeway, the property belonging the Devises of A. Todd has been re-drained, and defects to the stable made good, and yard repaved.

At Mr. Padgett's property, Spring Bank, occupied by Mr. W. Lee, a defective drain under the house was abolished, new drain constructed, and bath and lavatory disconnected.

At Miss Burnett's property, North Street, occupied by Messrs. Whitaker and Blackburn, similar improvements have been carried out.

At Borrage Green Lane, Mr. T. Pratt, V.S., has re-drained his house and 3 cottages adjoining, and connected them to the new sewer.

Mrs. Jackson has also carried out similar improvements at Skell Cottage.

The whole of the houses in Borrage Lane, which formerly drained into the River Skell, have been re-drained and connected with the new main sewer, and also Mr. R. Williamson's property in Low Skellgate, occupied by Messrs. Wright, Ellerker and Kipling.

Mr. John Ingram and Mrs. Aspinall have re-drained the whole of their property in Lickley Street into the new main sewer, and abolished the old drains into Skittergate gutter.

Messrs. Mitchell and Webster, at their property in Bondgate, occupied by W. Wise and others, have relaid the drains, built new privies and ashpits, and raised and paved the surface of the yard—this is a very great improvement.

The North Eastern Railway Co. have re-drained the house and premises occupied by Mr. J. H. Coldbeck into the new main sewer, and abolished the drains into the canal feeder.

The Yorkshire Banking Co., at their property in Princess Terrace, have entirely re-constructed the Sanitary arrangements at considerable cost.

Mr. Mountain, at his property in Fishergate, has abolished an old defective stone drain and substituted a 6-inch sanitary pipe drain at considerable expense.

Very many important Sanitary Improvements have also been carried out at the undermentioned properties :—

Owner.	Occupier.	Situation of Property.
Alderman Ingleby	J. R. Simpson	Crescent Villas
Mrs. Rutter	T. Trueman	Kirkgate
Mr. & Miss Leeming	J. King and others ...	Skellgarths
Mr. J. Metcalfe	J. Gowing and others	North Street
Messrs. Hepworth & Co.	J. Collier and others ...	Blossomgate
Mr. Johnson	G. Groves	Old Market place
Mr. Myas	Self	do
Mrs. Waite's Deviseses	Rev. G. W. Allan	South Parade
Messrs. Rose & Co.	W. Dinsdale	Low Skellgate
Mr. J. Groves	E. Thompson and others	Bondgate
Mr. R. Ebdell	W. Rivers and others	Low Skellgate
Mrs. Hammond	G. Snowden and others	St. Wilfrid's place
Messrs. Lightfoot & Co.	J. Mackley ...	Old Market place
The Ecclesiastical Commissioners	W. Staples and others	Stonebridgegate
Mr. G. Hardcastle	Self	do
Deviseses of W. Garbutt	G. Carling and others	do
do	J. Mountain and others	do
Mrs. Hammond	Mrs. Harland	Princess Road
Mr. W. Harrison	W. H. Hodgson and others	Harrison's Court
Mr. C. Bruce	Jno. Simpson and others	Blue Bell Court

Owner.	Occupier.	Situation of Property.
Messrs. Inde, Coope & Co.	Mr. H. Notley	Westgate
Mrs. Hutchinson	Self	South Crescent
Mrs. Stevenson	Mr. Hepworth ..	South Crescent
Mrs. Wise	Miss Ashby	North street

Public Works.

At the Gasworks and Manager's house the whole of the drains have been re-laid, water closet re-modelled, and old drains under scullery abolished.

In Stonebridgeway the Corporation purchased four old cottages (unfit for human habitation) and garden, through which to carry the new main sewer, and have since sold them on condition that they were pulled down and re-built as two houses only, which has been carried out by Mr. Simon Halpin, the purchaser, in a very satisfactory manner.

In the Market Place a new man-hole and flushing chamber has been constructed at the head of the main sewer, running from thence through Queen St., Finkle St., and Allhallowgate.

In Low St. Agnesgate a 6-inch sewer with man-hole has been laid, from Alma Bridge to the new main sewer in Low Mills Road, and the house drains from Skellfield House diverted from the River Skell into such new sewer.

In the Crescent Back Road a new man-hole has been constructed at the head of sewer, and a ventilating shaft fixed.

During the past year Messrs. G. and T. Precious have planted the Sewage Farm with willows, and the works have been constantly visited by the Sanitary Inspector, who has from time to time taken samples of the effluent and found it to be of excellent quality.

Last May, the Municipal and County Engineers' Association held their District Meeting at Ripon, and several Borough Engineers visited and inspected the Works, and heartily congratulated the City Council on their excellent Sewage Scheme.

During the past year the following main sewers have been constructed.

From Barefoot Street along the Leeds Road, and down Borrage Green Lane to Skell Cottages.

From Borrage Bridge, along Borrage Lane to the Willows.

From Borrage Bridge and through Low Skellgate.

From Woodbridge House, to the intercepting sewer at Low Mills.

From junction of High Skellgate and Westgate, along the west side of the Market Place to manhole at head of Fishergate.

From junction of North Street and Fishergate, through the Old Market Place and Middle Street.

From North Street to Rose Cottage, through Coltsgate Hill.

The intercepting sewer from Princess Road has been continued along Palace Road to junction with Little Studley Road, and from thence a branch sewer was laid to Primrose House.

The low level intercepting sewers have been completed, namely, one from the Gasworks, across land belonging to the Marquess of Ripon and myself, thence along Princess Road, across land belonging to Mrs. Stevenson, to St. Wilfrid's Terrace. The second from the Gasworks, across Stonebridgegate, through property belonging to Messrs. J. and J. Ingram, to the end of Lickley Street.

In connection with the above two intercepting sewers, the Pump Well Engine House has been erected and fitted up with the necessary Engine and Pump, to lift the sewage from the low level to the high level intercepting sewer, and the engine has been at work for some considerable time.

Branch sewers have also been laid from the low level intercepting sewers as follows, viz. :—

From Ingram's property, Stonebridgegate, to near Magdalen's Inn.

From St. Wilfrid's Terrace to Wensley Place.

From St. Wilfrid's Terrace, along the North Road, to North Villa.

The whole of the property in the lower part of the City, near the Gasworks and Princess Road, which formally drained into Skittergate gutter, has been drained into the above new intercepting sewers and the old drains abolished.

The above Sewerage Works have all been carried out under the supervision of the engineer, and in a very satisfactory manner.

The expenditure on Sewerage Works Account for the year ending 31st December, 1897, amounted to £6041 17s. 9d.

With the exception of one or two small branch sewers the scheme sanctioned by the Local Government Board has been executed.

General.

During the past year all the sewers in the City have been systematically flushed.

In various parts of the City 9 old brick cesspits in the streets have been replaced by sanitary gullies with cast-iron frames and covers.

Several notices have been given to property owners to clear away rubbish and vegetable matter deposited on the banks of the rivers, and to discontinue the practice.

Last year 2100 Ashpits were emptied, and 2630 loads of house refuse, &c., have been removed by Mr. J. Dennison, late contractor, the Sanitary staff, and the present contractor, Mr. R. H. Birkenshaw. Last year the numbers were 2123 and 2532 respectively.

I am of opinion that it would be most desirable for the Corporation to undertake the above work rather than to let it to Contractors, the work would be done more satisfactorily.

The Slaughter-houses have all been inspected periodically, and a special report thereon was prepared by the Sanitary Inspector last June, and estimates of cost for erection of a public slaughter-house prepared, but no action has yet been taken with respect to this very important question.

In view of the unsatisfactory conditions respecting several of the slaughter-houses, this matter should receive the attention of the Council.

The Cow-sheds, Dairies, and Milk shops in the City have also been inspected, and a special report thereon was prepared by the Sanitary Inspector last December, and a print is enclosed herewith. The Sanitary Committee are about to recommend new Regulations under the Contagious Diseases Animals Act for the approval of the Council.

All the Bakehouses in the City have been inspected and also the Workshops reported by the Inspector under the Factories and Workshops' Acts.

Several cases of over-crowding have been reported and action taken thereon, with satisfactory results.

Only one case of food unfit for human food being exposed for sale was reported, and the articles were destroyed.

No case of unsound meat being offered for sale was reported. The Meat Inspector has given very favourable reports upon the quality of the meat offered for sale in the City.

I have received no complaints of offensive trades being carried on in the City.

The Sanitary Committee held 40 meetings during the year, they issued 112 Notices under the Public Health Acts, which, with the arrears of 6 in hand last year, make 118, of which 101 have been carried out, leaving 17 carried forward to the current year. In only one case were legal proceedings taken to enforce the order.

The Sanitary Inspector has made an inspection of upwards of 400 houses in the City, and 25 new houses, and about 39 new w.c's. &c., have been built under his supervision during the year.

There are in the City 11 Common Lodging Houses registered; 12 Slaughter-houses registered; and 8 Slaughter-houses licensed; 42 registered Bakehouses; and 29 registered Dairies, Milk shops and Cow sheds.

As this is probably the last Report I shall have the honour of presenting as your Medical Officer of Health, I cannot refrain from mentioning, what seem to me, very important public works that have been carried out during my term of office. Your scheme for a new Water Supply was commenced and completed during that time; great things were said as to the purity, quality, and excellence of the water. I believe that everything that was said has been realised, it has now stood the test of time, and none of these qualifications have ever been questioned. You have, I believe, as good and pure a water supply as any town in England.

Within the last few years you have undertaken and carried out almost to its completion a system of Drainage and Sewage Purification. It has been a large undertaking, and it is not always easy to see at once the advantage of expenditure on such works.

That our very satisfactory bill of Health is due to the improvements that have been made in this direction I am not prepared to say, but I am convinced, that in time the City will receive a full and ample return for what has been expended. I believe that considering the local conditions the scheme was the best you could adopt, and now that it has been working for over 12 months, with so far as I am aware perfect success I think that you,

one of the smaller Corporations, may justly be congratulated on being in the front ranks of those who are alive to the requirements of the present day, and have not shrunk from the responsibility of large monetary expenditure during the last few years in undertaking and carrying out to a successful completion two of the most important sanitary reforms a town can adopt—a pure Water supply, and Sewage Purification Works.

I cannot close my Report without thanking you most heartily for the cordial and loyal support you have always extended to me during my long association with the Corporation of Ripon.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your faithful servant,

CHARLES HUSBAND,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the

Mayor, Aldermen, and

Citizens of the City

of Ripon.

CITY OF RIPON.

Population	....	Males	....	....	....	3440	
	....	Females	....	....	....	4072	
						—	7512
Inhabited Houses (1891)	....		....	....	....	....	1655
Uninhabited „ „	....		....	....	....	....	147
Houses Building „	....		....	....	....	....	12
Area in Statute Acres	....		....	....	....	....	1580
Persons to an Acre	....		....	....	....	....	4·7
Total Deaths for 1897	....		....	....	....	....	117
Deaths from Zymotic Diseases		....	....	....	....	....	3
Total Death-rate per 1000 per annum				....	....	....	15·3
Births: 94 Males, 93 Females		....	....	....	....	....	187

Year.	Births.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Total Deaths.	Death-rate exclusive of Public Institutions.	Total Death-rate.	Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.	Deaths under one year.	Deaths over sixty years.
1878	223	25	170	21·3	24·9	31	36	58
1879	242	20	180	23·5	26·4	12	38	60
1880	222	18	163	21·3	23·9	12	39	55
1881	219	13	131	16·1	17·9	9	23	52
1882	229	18	137	16·1	18·3	6	27	54
1883	217	26	136	14·6	18·1	6	23	51
1884	243	18	147	17·1	19·4	4	35	55
1885	200	14	118	13·7	15·5	9	11	55
1886	227	12	157	19·1	20·7	21	29	66
1887	229	16	166	19·6	21·7	8	37	62
1888	223	16	145	16·8	18·9	21	38	39
1889	232	20	143	16	18·7	9	22	57
1890	207	18	129	15·3	17·1	10	25	52
1891	178	16	154	18·5	20·5	4	26	66
1892	189	26	173	19·5	23	6	22	81
1893	184	14	166	20	22·1	26	25	57
1894	186	13	140	17	18·5	6	31	50
1895	208	8	122	15	16·1	8	25	43
1896	196	16	132	15·2	17·4	17	25	60
1897	187	14	117	13·5	15·3	3	14	60

